

Private Admonition -- Board Case No. 12, 1989. Date of Sanction: January 25, 1991. A panel of the Preliminary Review Committee of the Board on Professional Responsibility approved the offer of a private admonition to a Delaware attorney for a violation of **DLRPC 1.3** (lawyer shall act with reasonable diligence and promptness in representing a client). The attorney had been retained to handle legal matters relating to the settlement of an estate. Because of the attorney's delay in filing a Delaware inheritance tax return, the estate was charged with penalties and interest on the overdue taxes. Although the attorney paid the full amount of these charges from personal funds, discipline was warranted because the estate would never have incurred the charges but for the attorney's inaction. The private admonition was conditioned upon the attorney's payment of costs and an agreement by the attorney not to represent any other client in the estate/probate area before taking an accredited legal education seminar dealing with estate/probate practice.